

Mills College

Blaze Traps

3 Firemen

Aug 31, 1968
Sept 1

Three Oakland firemen suffered serious burns yesterday afternoon when a brush fire they were fighting on the Mills College campus suddenly swept up a hill and engulfed them.

Reported in critical condition last night at St. Francis Memorial Hospital in San Francisco were Lt. John T. Carlyon, 36, of 8 Lost Valley Drive, Orinda, and Floyd De Marco, 45, of 739 Jean St., Oakland.

She called her husband who was taking a shower. Seward dressed quickly, ran out and played water from a garden

In serious condition at the same hospital's center for treatment of burns was Terry Silveria, about 26, of 406 Begier Ave., San Leandro.

Clyde Langlois, Oakland first assistant fire chief, said De Marco may require plastic surgery for treatment of facial burns.

The three firemen suffered burns over 50 to 60 per cent of their bodies.

Lt. Carlyon and De Marco and Silveria, both hosemen, are all with Engine Company 31 on High Street.

The brush fire began shortly before 4 p.m. and eventually ravaged an area of five acres.

The men were burned while they were connecting fire-hoses on Underwood Road on the campus. Flames climbed up the smoke-blanketed slope and leaped across 10-foot underbrush along the road, burning nearly all the clothes off the three men.

Escaping injury because they were on opposite ends of the wall of flame were William Peakes, engineer, and Jimmy Stanislaus, hoseman.

Stanislaus, 58, 3865 Market St., Oakland, was 50 feet away from the three men, turning on the fire hydrant.

"All of a sudden I saw flame come over the top of the brush, flames about 20 feet high," Stanislaus said. He ran to help but was turned back by the fire.

Stanislaus ran for assistance and firemen, including Richard Brown, chief's operator handling communications, were able to bring the men out.

"I've seen a lot of people burned but I never saw any-

Continued on Page 6, Col. 1

in campus blaze

Continued from Page 1

one burned like that," said Brown.

"This whole underbrush was one sheet of flame," said Mrs. Sam H. Seward, 5369 Underwood Ave., whose house sustained some smoke and minor fire damage.

She and her husband were inside when Mrs. Seward heard crackling and looked out to see the flames racing toward the house.

She called her husband who was taking a shower. Seward dressed quickly, ran out and played water from a garden

hose upon the underbrush, while his wife called the fire department.

"I can't believe it—it was so beautiful, there was Spanish broom growing here," she said, watching smoke swirling from charred underbrush and pine tree limbs.

Fire Chief James Sweeney said cause of the fire is still undetermined.

Battalion Chief Sam Gay, who directed approximately 40 men from four engine companies and two truck companies, had fought a major fire on Longwalk Drive earlier in the day.

\$500,000

EX NOV 13 1968

Fire Death Suit Filed

A \$500,000 lawsuit charging Mills College with negligently maintaining a fire hydrant and causing the death of three Oakland firemen was filed today in Alameda County Superior Court.

Mrs. Mary Rose Demarco, widow of hoseman Floyd J. Demarco, 45, who lived at 739 Jean St., Oakland, filed the action.

Demarco, hoseman Tony Silveria, 26, of San Leandro, and Lt. John Carlyon, 36, of Orinda, were fatally burned Aug. 31 while fighting a brush fire along Underwood Avenue.

Attorney Alfred Nathan, who represents Mrs. Demarco, said he bases the suit on the fact that the fire hydrant's threads were clogged with paint.

He said similar suits will be filed soon by a San Francisco law firm in behalf of survivors of the other two victims.

Mills College Sued in Deaths of 3 Firemen

NOV 21 1968

Mills College has been sued for \$1.5 million damages as the result of the deaths of three Oakland firemen in a campus brush and grass fire Aug. 31.

Three \$500,000 lawsuits have been filed in Alameda County Superior Court by the victims' widows alleging negligence on the part of the women's school in maintenance of a fire hydrant at Underwood Avenue on the campus.

One suit was registered last week on behalf of Mary Rose DeMarco, widow of hoseman Floyd deMarco, 45. Two similar suits were filed yesterday in the deaths of fire Lt. John

Theodore Carlyon, 36, and Terry Silveria, 26, a hoseman.

These actions are by Mrs. Cairn Ann Silveria and her daughter, Connie Marie, 22 months, of 406 Begier Ave., San Leandro, and Mrs. Paula Carlyon, and son, John Paul, 23 months, of 8 Lost Valley Drive, Orinda.

The suits claim that the three firemen from Engine Co. 31, High Street, were trapped when they were unable to connect a hose to the hydrant because the threads of the spindle had been filled with paint and spanner wrenches could not work on the hydrant.